



The Honorable Donald M. Payne



July 16, 1934 – March 6, 2012





United States Congressman Donald M. Payne

World statesman, devoted father, servant to all people, Donald Milford Payne was born to William Evander and Norma (nee Garrett) Payne on July 16, 1934. He and his older siblings, Kathryn and William, were raised in a loving environment in a working-class area of all ethnicities that surely fostered the Congressman's ability to embrace the concerns of others in the many roads on which his life's journey took him. Beloved by his family, colleagues, staff, constituents, and people throughout the world, Congressman Payne leaves a magnificent legacy of service for all to emulate.

A graduate of Newark's public schools and Seton Hall University (1957), Congressman Payne taught at South Side High School, encouraging youngsters to strive to reach their full potential. During his tenure as a manager at Prudential Insurance Company, he volunteered with the Leaguers and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) where he established several significant national programs. In 1970, he became the first African American national president of the YMCA. Subsequently elected chairman of the YMCA World Refugee and Rehabilitation Committee, he visited more than eighty countries learning about international problems in unknowing preparation to later become a spokesperson for those indigenous populations.

Congressman Payne's political sphere of influence stems from his work as a district leader for the Democratic Party, evolving to elected positions on the Newark City Council, Essex County Freeholders, and culminating in his landslide victory to the United States House of Representatives for New Jersey's 10th District in 1988, completing twelve terms. He was the first and only Black Congressman elected from New Jersey. Nonetheless, Congressman Payne held the mantle of representative for all; the people's Congressman. He never wavered from his campaign platform of advocacy for youth and the underserved. He chaired the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and was chairman of its Foundation (CBCF) at the time of his passing. As the gentle warrior, he held firmly to his principles. He offered legislation that affected education, global health, labor, public policy and international diplomacy.

Appointed by President George W. Bush as Congressional delegate to the United Nations for two terms, Congressman Payne's wisdom and counsel on international affairs was highly respected by national leaders. He was deeply admired and loved by people all over the world, particularly the people of Africa, Ireland and the Caribbean. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he authored legislation that declared genocide in Darfur, Sudan, addressed famine relief, secured \$50 million for tuberculosis issues, and \$50 billion for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. He was also a major contributor to the work of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Just a few weeks ago, the U.S. Agency for International Development established a fellowship designed to attract outstanding young people to careers in international development. The fellowship will be named in honor of Congressman Payne.

Congressman Payne was a life-long member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey where Reverend Toney E. Jackson is the senior pastor. Congressman Payne was a true family man, raising his children as a widower upon the death of his wife Hazel Johnson in 1963. He always involved his children in his community activism. Donald Jr., Wanda and Nicole have all embraced their father's love of service to others, extending the road that their father paved. If the next generations of Paynes – Jack, Yvonne, Donald II, Shakir and Samir – can walk that often difficult path as well, with all whom Congressman Payne touched, the world will surely be a better place for the gift of his remarkable life.

Legislative Achievements

-Legislation Signed into Public Law

- Serve America Act of 2009*
- Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008*
- Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008*
- *In 2008 Congressman Payne was successful in his advocacy of H.R. 5501 that allocated \$50 billion to help combat the plaguing diseases of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis that burden the world.*
- Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006*
- Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005*
- Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004*
- AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004*
- *Resolution recognizing genocide in Darfur 2004*
- Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998*
- School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994*

-Legislation Authored and Introduced

- Prescribe a Book Act (H.R. 820),*
- Lead Act (H.R. 1524),*
- Time for Innovative Matters in Education Act (H.R. 1636),*
- Promise Neighborhoods Act (H.R. 2098),*
- Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act (H.R. 3343),*
- Substitute Teaching Improvement Act (H.R. 3345),*
- Youth Financial Education (H.R. 5046),*
- Equity in Excellence Act (H.R. 5586),*
- Day of the African Child (H.RES.550),*
- *Zimbabwe Renewal Act and the Water for the World Act (H.R. 5971),*

In addition, on March 2, 2012, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the launch of a new fellowship program designed to attract outstanding young people to careers in international development. The fellowship will encourage the application of members of minority groups who have historically been underrepresented in development careers, and is part of a larger Diversity Engagement Program being stood up by the Agency. The fellowship will be named in honor of longtime development champion, Congressman Donald Payne.

The Order of Service

Celebration of the Life of Donald M. Payne Member of Congress

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr.
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Newark, NJ
Officiating

Pastor Toney E. Jackson
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Newark, NJ
Congressman Payne's home church

Organ Prelude

Processional

Invocation

Rev. David Jefferson, Jr.
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Newark, NJ

Musical Solo

The Lord's Prayer by
Trustee Chama White
Bethlehem Baptist Church

Old Testament

Rev. Ron Christian
Christian Love Baptist Church
Irvington, NJ

New Testament

Jack Payne
Grandson

Prayer of Comfort

Rev. Dana Owen
Messiah Baptist Church
East Orange, NJ

Ministry of Music	Combined Choirs, Bethlehem Baptist Church And Metropolitan Baptist Church
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Tributes

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Family Reflections	William D. Payne, Brother Wanda M. Payne, Daughter Donald M. Payne, Jr. , Son Nicole Y. Payne, Daughter Craig A. Stanley, Nephew
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His Life Story	Fran Bradman, Bethlehem Baptist Church
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Eulogy	Pastor Toney E. Jackson Bethlehem Baptist Church
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Recessional













U.S Capitol flag flown half staff in honor of Congressman Donald M. Payne



The celebration will conclude at gravesite with full military honors
Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield, NJ

Acknowledgements

The Family wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and condolences they have received. The outpouring of support has been overwhelming. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. May God's continuous blessing be yours.

A Final Tribute. A Service by:

Whigham Funeral Home
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Newark, NJ 07102
Phone 973-622-6872 • Fax 973-733-9885
Acknowledging a Life • Cherishing a Memory
www.whighamfuneralhome.com